AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A method of providing configuration information for at least one user object to an access device in a multimedia communication network system having a server and a plurality of access devices, the method comprising:

organizing the plurality of access devices according to an object-oriented model in which software objects are instantiated in an object hierarchy, the object hierarchy including household objects that contain user objects and access device objects,

said household objects further containing configuration information associated with households in which the plurality of access devices are located, wherein each household is represented by a household object;

said access device objects containing configuration information associated with respective access devices; and

said user objects containing configuration information associated with respective users of the plurality of access devices and, when instantiated, each user object defines interaction of a respective user with an access device in which the user object is instantiated;

receiving information that an access device is being associated with a household having a household object comprising a plurality of said user objects;

determining whether the access device is the household's first access device; and

if the access device is not the first access device of the household, then instantiating in the access device at least one user object from the household object representing the household, wherein the user object, when ~~intantiated~~ instantiated, inherits the configuration information of the user object as recorded with the household object.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising receiving configuration information for at least one user object from a user via the access device when the access device is the first access device of the household.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising providing to the access device a ticket number corresponding to the configuration information received from the user, which ticket number tracks the version of the configuration information received from the user.

16. (Currently Amended) A configuration system for providing configuration information for at least one user object to an access device in a multimedia communication network system having a server and a plurality of access devices, the configuration system comprising:

at least one household object representing a household to which the plurality of access devices pertains, wherein the household object is a software object that includes configuration information concerning the household and further contains user objects and access device objects, said user objects containing configuration information associated with respective users of the access devices and, when instantiated, each user object defines interaction of a respective user with an access device in which the user object is instantiated, said access device objects containing configuration information associated with respective access devices;

means for receiving information that an access device is being associated with a household having a household object comprising a plurality of said user objects;

means for determining whether the access device is the household's first access device; and

means for instantiating in the access device at least one user object from the household object representing the household when the access device is not the first access device of the

household, wherein the user object, when instantiated, inherits the configuration information of the user object as recorded with the household object.

17. (Previously Presented) The configuration system of claim 16, further comprising means for receiving configuration information for at least one user object from a user via the access device when the access device is the first access device of the household.

18. (Previously Presented) The configuration system of claim 17, further comprising means for providing to the access device a ticket number corresponding to the configuration information received from the user, which ticket number tracks the version of the configuration information received from the user.

19. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium for use in a multimedia communication network system having a server and a plurality of access devices, the computer-readable medium having instructions that when executed by the server cause the server to perform operations comprising:

instantiating at least one household object that represents a household, wherein the household object is a software object that includes configuration information related to the household and further contains user objects and access device objects, said user objects representing users of the plurality of access devices and containing configuration information related to the users, each user object, when instantiated in an access device, defining interaction of a respective user with the access device, said access device objects containing configuration information associated with respective access devices;

receiving information that an access device of the plurality of access devices is being associated with a household having a household object comprising a plurality of said user objects;

determining whether the access device is the household's first access device; and

when the access device is not the first access device associated with the household, instantiating in the access device at least one user object from the household object representing the household, wherein the user object, when instantiated, inherits the configuration information of the user object as recorded with the household object.

20. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the operations further comprise receiving configuration information for at least one user object from a user via the access device when the access device is the first access device of the household.

21. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 20, wherein the operations further comprise providing to the access device a ticket number corresponding to the configuration information received from the user, which ticket number tracks the version of the configuration information received from the user.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein information that the access device is being associated with the household is automatically received in response to a user coupling the access device to the multimedia communication network system.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein receiving information that an access device is being associated with the household includes prompting the user to identify the household when the access device is being coupled to the multimedia communication network system.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13, further comprising providing to the access device an indication of whether the access device is determined to be the household's first access device.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein, when the access device is not the first access device of the household, the configuration information for the at least one user object is automatically provided to the access device.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13, further comprising, when the access device is not the first access device of the household, providing to the access device all of the user objects from the household object representing the household.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 26, wherein the configuration information for all of the user objects is automatically provided to the access device.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 26, wherein the configuration information for all of the user objects is provided to the access device in response to a request.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13, further comprising receiving updated configuration information for the at least one user object via the access device.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 29, further comprising determining whether an administrator attribute in the at least one user object enables a protected setting in the configuration information to be updated.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13, further comprising automatically providing to the access device updated configuration information for the at least one user object.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 31, wherein the updated configuration information is provided to the access device with a ticket number.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13, further comprising, when the access device is the household's first access device, providing to the access device configuration information for at least one user object that was created beforehand.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 33, wherein the at least one user object was created beforehand by a service provider in the multimedia communication network system.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 15, further comprising receiving the ticket number from the access device and, in response thereto, providing to the access device a different ticket number with updated configuration information for the at least one user object.